

D R A F T

Rockville Environment Commission Minutes of the Meeting of Tuesday, December 14, 2010 At the Rockville City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue

Attendance

Commissioners: Steve Cardon, Julie Palakovich Carr, Kris Dighe, Anne Goodman, Beri Kravitz, Christine Davidson-McCord, Donna Vincent Roa and David Zbarsky

Absent: Seth Adams

Guests: Mark Charles, City of Rockville Environmental Management

Meeting Commencement

The meeting convened at 7:35 pm by Chair Dighe

Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the November 9, 2010 meeting were reviewed and Goodman moved and Davidson-McCord seconded approval with two minor typo changes (corrected on the final posted minutes). The Commission approved the minutes 8-0-0.

White Tailed Deer Task Force Status Report

Davidson-McCord briefed the Commission on recent developments and the status of the initiative. The task force is working on its final report, which consists of 12 sections, including all remaining management options. The management options consist of 1) a managed hunt (in three specific parts of the City), 2) exclusionary fencing (to keep the deer out of sensitive areas), and 3) reproductive controls (the most expensive). The task force has divided into subcommittees to complete work on the report. The document will also include the results of an aerial survey, a description of implementation procedures and public outreach recommendations. A final report is expected in Mid-March. The next task force meeting is scheduled for January 18, 2011.

Environmental Literacy Proposal

Carr reported on progress to assist Rockville schools in meeting a new Maryland environmental education law that reinvigorates environmental curricula for K-Grade 12. She has begun to assemble a list of on-line resources for local teachers, including expanding an initial list prepared by Commissioner Goodman. The Commission may also provide assistance in developing lesson plans and train the teacher workshops. Carr has also contacted Laurie Jenkins, environmental education coordinator at the Smith Center. The Center already offers a 2.5-day program on regional watersheds for 10,000 6th graders and a 1-day program for 15,000 K-Grade 5 students. Other Commissioner's suggestions included:

Commission Minutes
December 14, 2010
Page 2.

- *Train-the-Teacher* sessions to be held at Croydon Creek
 - Creation of classroom kits
 - Incorporation of the Chesapeake Bay, Rock Creek and Cabin John TMDLs
 - Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin (ICPRB) resources available through Audra Lew
 - Monitoring information available from the U.S. Geologic Survey
 - Rockville's recently adopted water resource element of the comprehensive master plan
 - The Cabin John watershed study, and the Rock Creek and Watts Branch studies when available.
 - EPA watershed education materials
 - "Brainpop.com" materials
 - Water quality concerns of our sister cities in China and Germany.
- Anne Goodman will assist Commissioner Carr in organizing this effort going forward.

Committee Reports

Watershed Protection

The Watershed Protection Committee met on November 17 and held a strategic planning session. The Committee discussed:

- How its priorities line up with the Environmental Management Division
- How the Committee could better support the Save our Streams residential volunteer monitoring initiative
- To need to build and maintain a water quality trends database
- Support for the Environmental Literacy initiative
- How to attract more volunteers to the Committee
- How to better promote the Committee's activities

The Committee also discussed the benefits of inviting all of the Adopt a Stream contacts to a meeting where they could discuss successful approaches and results. It was decided that the contacts should be polled on their interest in having such a meeting.

The Committee determined it would be useful to have brief PowerPoint presentations on the Adopt-a-Stream, Save-our-Stream, and Recycling programs as well as available environmental resources such as the Croydon Creek Nature Center.

The Committee also expects to participate in the next *Twinbrook in the Park* community celebration.

The next meeting of the Committee will be in January.

Commission Minutes
December 14, 2010
Page 3.

Sustainable Development and Energy

No report was offered since the Committee did not meet in November.

Outreach and Education

The Committee met on November 17 and discussed the following:

- Setting up an annual calendar of important dates and outreach opportunities (e.g., Earth Day, America Recycles Day, Earth Hour, Hometown Holidays, Science Day, Twinbrook-in-the-Park Day, etc.) to ensure adequate time to prepare observances and participation.
- Work goes on to produce recycling magnets for Rockville residents. The draft graphic is ready. The cost is estimated at \$.25 each. The Committee is trying to determine how many to purchase and which priority neighborhoods to distribute the magnets to. The Committee is working on a similar non-magnet recycling handout to be printed in the City's graphic shop.
- The Committee wants to buy a table cover (with logo) to be used to improve the booth during public events.
- The Commissioner has been asked to provide a photo for use by the *Rockville Living* blog. The blog is planning an article on the Commission and its purposes in a future issue.
- The Committee has an interest in reviewing the materials on the City website and offering recommendations on improving the content.

The next meeting is scheduled for December 22, 2010.

Committee Structure Discussion

The Commission discussed the ongoing need for a standing committee on Sustainable Development and Energy. It was determined to keep the committee but broaden its focus to include energy efficiency, greening City facilities, green purchasing, and overall sustainability topics. The committee's green building focus may return when the City initiates the next building code review in 2012, which is anticipated to strengthen the energy efficiency portion of the code.

Website Improvement Discussion

Following up on the Outreach Committee report, the Commission held a brief discussion on the need to improve the website. In particular, Commissioners were disappointed that the *Sustainable Rockville* link on the home page menu has been removed. The Commission is considering writing a letter requesting the link be restored.

Environmental Management Report

Mark Charles reported on a variety of initiatives the City staff is working on including:

- The Mayor and Council approved the Water Resources Element on December 13, 2010.

Commission Minutes
December 14, 2010
Page 4.

- The City staff continues to work for support for the anticipated stormwater funding Bill in the coming session of the Maryland legislature.
- The green building tax credit proposal (developed by the Commission and the Chamber of Commerce) is still being considered for inclusion in the 2012 budget.
- There will be an energy efficiency seminar for residents on January 26, 2011. Look for more specific information on time and location soon.

Other

Julie Palakovich Carr has been asked to serve on an ad hoc committee on improving the *adequate public facilities* (APFO) requirements in the City's zoning code.

Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 pm by unanimous acclamation.

Next Commission Meeting

The next Commission meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 11, 2010** at **7:30 pm** at **Rockville's City Hall, 111 Maryland Avenue**, Rockville, Maryland, 20850

Follow Up/Action Items:

- The Commission continues to have a vacancy. Mark Charles will contact previous applicants for Commission seats and determine their continuing interest.
- Commissioners will solicit applications by January 10, 2011 if possible.
- Steve Cardon would like stream clean up numbers (volunteers, amount of refuse) for 2010.